

2 August 2021

Request IR-01-21-23344

P Kelly
fyi-request-16238-994307d5@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear P Kelly

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) dated 28 July 2021 requesting information on injuries and deaths of Police staff.

You requested:

1. *Please provide, by year for as many years backwards as you hold the information,*
 - a. *The total number of injuries to staff in that year, broken down by cause if available*
 - b. *The total number of deaths of staff in that year, broken down by cause if available*

Ideally the breakdown of cause would be whether a member of the public was involved, e.g. if someone punched a police officer. But just as you have it available. I expect that you will have some injury and death data for many decades.

- 1.a. Refer to the attached *Source of Police staff injuries* table.
- 1.b. Refer to: <https://www.police.govt.nz/about-us/history-and-museum/memorial/officers-killed-criminal-acts>

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask the Ombudsman to review my response if you are not satisfied with the way I have responded to your request.

Yours sincerely

Superintendent Mel Aitken
Director, Safer People



Police National Headquarters

180 Molesworth St, Wellington
Telephone: 04 474 9499 www.police.govt.nz

Source of Police staff injuries from 1/4/2013 to 19/7/2021

Source of injury	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		Grand Totals	
	'Assault'	Total	'Assault'	Total	'Assault'	Total	'Assault'	Total	'Assault'	Total	'Assault'	Total	'Assault'	Total	'Assault'	Total	'Assault'	Total	'Assault'	Total
Not categorised	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	2	2	103	-	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	130
Contact / exposure to biological factors	4	11	20	34	13	28	16	31	10	24	16	35	11	24	14	20	2	7	106	214
Contact / exposure to chemical substance	-	8	1	17	-	6	5	33	3	37	2	24	4	17	1	14	1	11	17	167
Contact with cold objects	-	2	-	4	-	4	-	6	-	2	-	5	-	2	-	3	-	4	-	32
Contact with electricity	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	8
Contact with hot objects	-	9	-	5	-	12	-	10	-	17	1	14	1	21	-	34	1	8	3	130
Contact with sharp objects	1	66	2	99	-	109	2	133	3	102	5	131	6	150	2	126	5	67	26	983
Exposure to environmental temperatures	-	6	-	1	-	2	-	4	-	1	-	5	-	5	-	5	-	1	-	30
Exposure to mental stress factors	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	4	-	3	-	5	-	6	-	3	-	1	-	24
Exposure to noise	-	1	-	11	-	12	-	19	-	6	-	4	-	7	-	3	-	2	-	65
Exposure to radiation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Fall from height	-	41	-	106	1	77	2	92	2	74	-	78	-	73	1	51	2	28	8	620
Hit or trapped by object(s)	-	15	-	16	-	23	-	27	8	112	8	122	6	141	7	122	3	66	32	644
Hit, struck or bitten by animal, insect or spider	2	43	-	72	1	66	-	95	1	74	-	60	-	104	1	80	-	36	5	630
Hit, struck or bitten by person (Assault)	173	173	291	291	320	320	407	407	311	311	292	292	341	341	321	324	188	191	2,644	2,650
Hitting object, animal or person	1	70	3	125	4	122	8	153	8	138	6	140	11	163	10	119	7	57	58	1,087
Muscle stress lifting / handling objects	-	81	1	133	-	128	-	162	1	176	-	168	1	220	-	148	-	67	3	1,283
Muscle stress lifting / handling people	6	113	8	158	9	187	8	199	14	145	13	172	17	207	9	130	10	65	94	1,376
Muscle stress no objects being handled	2	135	1	233	2	241	4	242	1	140	1	104	1	119	-	120	1	40	13	1,374
Muscle stress physical exercise	1	152	1	210	-	200	2	230	-	200	-	260	1	298	1	154	-	74	6	1,778
Muscle/Joint stress repetitive / forceful movemen	1	33	-	62	-	74	-	84	4	180	2	201	2	299	5	201	1	67	15	1,201
Other (Please specify)	10	148	21	276	26	286	17	351	11	243	5	230	17	297	9	223	8	111	124	2,165
Rubbing/chaffing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	15	-	37	1	16	-	12	1	88
Slip / trip / stumble or fall on same level	2	188	6	208	2	269	6	327	4	249	1	224	6	300	3	204	4	121	34	2,090
Spat at / blood exposure by Offender	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	23	16	16	32	32	31	31	9	9	111	111
Grand Total	203	1,297	355	2,064	378	2,169	477	2,611	406	2,368	368	2,328	457	2,865	416	2,133	242	1,046	3,302	18,881

Data prior to 1 April 2013 is not available. The data for 2021 is for the year to 19 July 2021. Incidents marked as 'Assault' indicate that a member of the public was involved in causing harm to staff. All data in this table comes from NZ Police staff reports of harm – this is different and separate from the system used for recording instances of criminal assault. For multiple assaults on one Police Officer in a year, each instance is recorded as a separate assault. Note that the workforce has grown over the period included.